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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 IN RE: SOCIAL MEDIA ADOLESCENT  
11 ADDICTION/PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCTS  
12 LIABILITY LITIGATION

This Document Relates To:

ALL ACTIONS

MDL No. 3047

Case No. 4:22-md-03047-YGR (PHK)

**AGENDA AND JOINT STATEMENT  
FOR OCTOBER 24, 2025, CASE  
MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

Judge: Hon. Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers

Magistrate Judge: Hon. Peter H. Kang

1       **I. Proposed Agenda for Case Management Conference**

- 2           ● Argument on TIME Motion to Intervene
- 3           ● Breathitt's request to move the trial to Oakland
- 4           ● Defendants' anticipated request for additional time to file school district ("SD") motion for  
5           summary judgment ("MSJ") replies
- 6           ● Brief continuance of SD jury instructions exchange and submission deadlines
- 7           ● State AGs and Meta's joint draft jury instructions and verdict forms filed October 10, 2025
- 8           ● State AGs request for trial setting

9       **II. Joint Updates**

10      **A. Joint JCCP Update**

11      **General Causation *Sargon* Rulings.** Judge Kuhl issued rulings on the parties' *Sargon* motions as  
12     to general causation experts on September 22, following a hearing held September 17. Judge Kuhl largely  
13     denied the parties' *Sargon* motions with a few exceptions: Judge Kuhl excluded the following opinions  
14     from plaintiffs' retained experts: (1) Dr. Gary Goldfield's opinions regarding what Defendants "knew or  
15     should have known" and (2) Dr. Kara Bagot's opinions regarding Defendants' intent; she denied  
16     Defendants' motions as to Dr. Drew Cingel, Dr. Anna Lembke, Dr. Dimitri Christakis, Dr. Ramin  
17     Mojtabai, Dr. Eva Telzer, and Dr. Jean Twenge. *See Ex. 2*, 9/22/25 Ruling on Defendants' *Sargon*  
18     Motions. Judge Kuhl excluded the following opinions from plaintiffs' non-retained experts: (1) all general  
19     causation opinions from Lotte Rubaek<sup>1</sup> and (2) Arturo Bejar's opinions regarding causation of specific  
20     mental health harms.<sup>2</sup> Judge Kuhl excluded the following opinions from Defendants' experts: Dr. Keith  
21     Hampton's opinions regarding "moral panics" and testimony that "there is no evidence that social media  
22     use causes mental health harm"; she denied Plaintiffs' motions as to Auerbach, Gotlib, Honaker, Platt,  
23     Shear, Galvan, Gibbons, Schwartz, Krishna, and Pfeifer. *See Ex. 4*, 9/22/25 Ruling on Plaintiffs' Motion  
24     to Exclude the Opinions of Dr. Keith Hampton, and *Ex. 3* Ruling on Plaintiffs' *Sargon* Motions.

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27     <sup>1</sup> The JCCP Plaintiffs subsequently withdrew their disclosure of Ms. Rubaek as a non-retained expert.

28     <sup>2</sup> There is a second round of *Sargon* briefing with respect to Mr. Bejar that has not yet been ruled on.

**Hearing on Remaining *Sargon* Motions.** On November 10, Judge Kuhl will hear argument on the remaining *Sargon* motions, directed to plaintiffs' non-retained expert Bejar (non-general causation opinions) and retained experts Bagot (KGM, RKC), Chandler, Drumright, Istook, Johnson, McCarron, Murray (RKC), Noar, and Roberts, as well as to defense experts Asinski and Ackert. **Ex. 6**, 10/6/25 Minute Order.

**Ruling on Early MSJ re Statute of Limitations Defense.** The Meta, Snap, and TikTok Defendants requested and were granted leave to file an early MSJ on the issue of statute of limitations for Trial Pool 3 plaintiff Jamie Loach. Argument was held on September 15, and Judge Kuhl denied the MSJ on September 16, finding there were factual disputes regarding when Loach discovered or should have discovered her alleged injuries and their connection to the defendants' conduct, and that these disputes are for a jury to resolve, not for summary judgment. *See Ex. 5*, 9/16/25 *Loach* MSJ Order.

**MSJ Hearing Set for October 28, 2025.** On October 28, 2025, Judge Kuhl will hear argument on MSJs or motions for summary adjudication for Trial Pool 1 Plaintiffs. This will include four motions regarding K.G.M., four motions regarding R.K.C., and two motions regarding Moore. The Court will also hear argument on Defendants' omnibus motion to seal as to the general causation *Sargon* motions. **Ex. 6** [10/6/25 Minute Order].

**Hearing on Discovery Motions and Motions to Quash.** On October 20, Judge Kuhl will hear argument on two discovery motions filed by plaintiffs and one discovery motion filed by defendants, as well as motions to quash notices to appear at trial filed by Meta (for Mark Zuckerberg and Adam Mosseri) and Snap (for Evan Spiegel). Plaintiffs' discovery motions concern Meta "taps" data and Defendants' user account identification. Defendants' discovery motion concerns content deleted from Defendants' platforms for plaintiff R.K.C. **Ex. 6** [10/6/25 Minute Order].

**Motions in Limine.** The parties filed non-*Sargon* motions in limine ("MILs") on September 5. On September 25, following conferrals, the parties filed a joint notice of withdrawal of certain MILs as to which they had worked out a stipulation or other resolution, and each side identified its 4 top priority MILs, second 4 priority MILs, and third 4 priority MILs. Judge Kuhl has indicated that she will hear argument on the parties' priority MILs in early December. **Ex. 6** [10/6/25 Minute Order].

**Updated Trial Schedule.** Trial Pool 1 plaintiff Heaven Moore's case was previously set for trial on November 17, 2025. However, due to developments in the case (related to new allegations that she was the victim of sexual predation and assault when she was 15-17 years old), Judge Kuhl changed the order of the Trial Pool 1 bellwether trials and set a schedule for supplemental discovery to be taken in *Moore*. And due to plaintiff trial counsel availability issues, Judge Kuhl vacated the original (November 17, 2025) trial date. Jury selection for the first bellwether trial is now set for January 27, 2026, and the new order of cases for Trial Pool 1 is (1) K.G.M, (2) R.K.C., and (3) Heaven Moore. **Ex. 6** [10/6/25 Minute Order]; *see also Ex. 7* [9/17/25 Minute Order]. Judge Kuhl also reset the first Trial Pool 2 trial for April 13, 2026, and the first Trial Pool 3 trial for June 8, 2026. *Id.* The parties are conferring on revised pre-trial deadlines for Trial Pools 2 and 3.

**Witness and Exhibit Lists.** The parties have exchanged initial witness lists for the K.G.M. and R.K.C. cases and initial exhibit lists for all three Trial Pool 1 cases. At an October 6 conference, Judge Kuhl instructed the parties to exchange revised witness lists, separating witnesses into "will call" and "may call" categories, and limiting the number of hours of direct and cross examination of "will call" witnesses to 40 hours per side. **Ex. 6** [10/6/25 Minute Order]. The parties have agreed to submit updated witness lists on November 12.

**Jury Instructions.** On November 21, the parties will file Trial 1 verdict form proposals and proposed jury instructions separated into three groups: (1) agreed-upon instructions, (2) plaintiffs' additional instructions, and (3) Defendants' additional instructions. Judge Kuhl will hear argument on the proposed jury instructions on December 12. **Ex. 6** [10/6/25 Minute Order].

## B. Joint Discovery Update

A copy of the following discovery-related submissions and orders, which were (or will by October 24 have been) filed or issued since the last CMC Statement was filed, will be sent by email to Judge Gonzalez Rogers after this CMC Statement is filed (numbers refer to ECF docket numbers):

- Supplemental Joint Letter Brief ("JLB") and Status Report on NY Executive Agencies' Production of Documents (ECF 2258)

- Response re Motion for Relief from Nondispositive Pretrial Order of Magistrate Judge on Discovery Letter Brief re Frances Haugen Document Production and Deposition (ECF 2260); see ECF 2197 (Discovery Letter Brief); see ECF 2239 (Motion).
- Order Resolving JLB re Certain Requests for Admissions Served by the States on Meta Defendants (ECF 2308); see ECF 2012 (JLB)
- Order Resolving JLB re Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel Meta to Produce Transcripts of All Depositions Taken and Documents Produced in State Court AG Actions After MDL Close of Fact Discovery (ECF 2310); see ECF 2174 (JLB)
- Joint Status Report on Results of Meet-and-Confer on Additional and Unanticipated Discovery on Disclosed Witnesses (ECF 2312)
- JLB Re Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel TikTok and YouTube to Produce the Custodial Files of TikTok Witness Samantha Kersul and YouTube Witness Tom Saffell, Both Listed on Defendants' September 24 Preliminary Trial Witness List (ECF 2314)
- JLB re Disputes Over the Additional of Sarah Wynn-Williams and Jason Sattizahn to Plaintiffs' Witness List (ECF 2315)

### C. Appeals

Briefing on the collateral order appeal and the cross-appeals in the Ninth Circuit was completed as of October 14, 2025. On October 8, 2025, the Ninth Circuit notified the Parties that the case is being considered for oral argument in either January or February 2026.

### D. Additional & Unanticipated Discovery on Disclosed Witnesses

As set forth in the Parties' Joint Status Report on Results of Meet and Confer on Additional and Unanticipated Discovery (ECF 2312), the Parties conferred about three categories of witnesses identified on their respective preliminary witness lists, exchanged September 24, 2025. The Parties provide updates on the scheduling of further depositions for each of those categories of witnesses below.

**New School District Witnesses.** Three of the SD bellwether Plaintiffs disclosed a total of 8 new witnesses on their preliminary witness lists exchanged September 24. In the course of conferrals, Plaintiffs withdrew one of those witnesses. Consistent with a stipulation entered by the Parties in March 2025 (ECF 1752), Plaintiffs have agreed to make each of the 7 remaining new witnesses available for a 4.5-hour deposition and to produce their custodial files, and are in the process of producing the custodial files that Defendants did not previously have. For any of these new witnesses who are submitting MSJ declarations,

1 Defendants may request additional time to take those depositions and, if necessary, commensurate  
 2 adjustments to their December 5 MSJ reply deadline. *See infra* Section III.A.2. Plaintiffs intend to oppose  
 3 as improper and unnecessary any request for a delay from Defendants, given that these additional  
 4 depositions were expressly contemplated by the Parties' stipulation and the Court's prior orders.  
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6 For any new witnesses not submitting such declarations, the Parties are in agreement that the  
 7 witnesses can be deposed at mutually convenient times in December or early 2026. For new witnesses  
 8 who submit declarations, Plaintiffs will offer deposition dates sufficiently prior to Defendants' reply  
 9 deadline.

**Defendant-Employee Witnesses Listed on Defendants' Preliminary Witness Lists.**

10 Defendants are meeting and conferring with Plaintiffs and expect to schedule defense-side depositions, to  
 11 the extent Defendants have agreed to produce the witness for further deposition, at a mutually convenient  
 12 time sometime between now and early 2026.

**Former Meta Employee Witnesses Listed on Plaintiffs' Preliminary Witness Lists.** PISD  
 13 Plaintiffs listed two former Meta employee witnesses on their preliminary witness lists who were not  
 14 previously deposed in any capacity in the MDL: Sarah Wynn Williams and Jason Sattizahn. The State  
 15 AGs also listed Jason Sattizahn. Meta has moved to strike these two witnesses from Plaintiffs' witness  
 16 lists, which Plaintiffs opposed. ECF 2315. Meta reserves its right to seek depositions of these witnesses  
 17 and further documents if they are not stricken.

**E. State AGs Jury Instructions and Verdict Forms filed October 10, 2025**

18 Pursuant to the Court's direction at the August and September 2025 CMCs, the State AGs and  
 19 Meta jointly filed draft jury instructions and verdict forms for the purpose of informing trial-planning  
 20 discussions. In addition, Meta and the State AGs each submitted a brief statement regarding the proposed  
 21 instructions and verdict forms. The Parties are prepared to discuss the jury instructions and verdict forms  
 22 with the Court.

1           **III. Other Issues**

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3           **A. School District Cases**

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5           **1. Breathitt's Request That its Trial be Held in Oakland, not McKinleyville**

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7           **Plaintiffs' Position:** Breathitt County Board of Education (“Breathitt”) respectfully requests that  
          its bellwether trial be held in Oakland. Breathitt waived *Lexecon* with the expectation that its case would  
          be tried in Oakland. Breathitt appreciates that Plaintiffs’ leadership did not previously object to a change  
          in venue to McKinleyville. Breathitt, however, raised with the Court the possibility of instead having the  
          trial in Kentucky in its home jurisdiction, which the Court declined. (9/19/2025 CMCS at 2-6; Tr. CMC  
          7/18/25 at 19-21). While Breathitt was consulting further regarding venue, the Court issued an Order  
          stating that Breathitt would not go first in the sequence, *see* CMO No. 26, removing immediate urgency  
          to the issue. Now that the Court has issued its CMO No. 27 placing Breathitt first in the sequence, Breathitt  
          objects to trial in McKinleyville for two reasons: 1) relocating it to McKinleyville would impose  
          substantial, unwarranted hardship on a small, resource-constrained school district; and 2) the Oakland  
          courthouse provides the accessibility and infrastructure needed to conduct a trial of this magnitude.

15           **a. Reassigning Trial to McKinleyville Would Impose Undue Hardship**

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17           Breathitt is appreciative of the intention behind the Court’s *sua sponte* decision to conduct its  
          bellwether trial in McKinleyville, California. However, this move would create additional hardship for a  
          school district that is already significantly burdened by having to try a multi-week case in California.

18           Breathitt did not waive its *Lexecon* rights lightly. As the Court is aware from past briefing,  
          Breathitt is one of the smallest and poorest school districts in the country. It survives on a shoe-string  
          budget and is located in a rural and remote area of Eastern Kentucky far from any major airports. The  
          nearest major airport—Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International (CVG)—is approximately a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Jackson, Kentucky. The Lexington airport, about one hour and forty-five minutes away, is a small regional facility with limited service. Because of these distances and flight schedules, district witnesses must stay overnight near the airport before early morning departures, adding at least one travel day on each end of any trip. Although the actual flying time from Kentucky to San Francisco and to Arcata is similar, the difference in accessibility and cost is substantial. From both Lexington and

1 Cincinnati, there are multiple one-stop flights each day to San Francisco on several major airlines. By  
 2 contrast, only a single daily flight operates to Arcata–Eureka Airport on one carrier (United). Cincinnati  
 3 also offers direct flights to San Francisco on several days each week—at roughly half the cost and with  
 4 far less travel time. Travel to McKinleyville therefore requires longer and less reliable connections,  
 5 substantially higher costs, and greater disruption to the district’s operations.

6 A majority of the fact witnesses that Breathitt expects to call live to testify are current district  
 7 employees—teachers, administrators, and staff whose contracts are limited to the academic year.  
 8 Participating in a summer trial would require these employees to work outside their contracted days, which  
 9 means the district, which is already financially strained, must secure additional funds to compensate these  
 10 individuals. Any such expenditures require advanced approval from the school board. In short, holding  
 11 trial in a remote location like McKinleyville would force the district to incur costs and seek approvals that  
 12 were not contemplated when it agreed to waive *Lexecon*.

13 Defendants’ assertion that travel costs are comparable between McKinleyville and Oakland is not  
 14 supported by the evidence. Current airfare data show that round-trip travel from Kentucky to Arcata–  
 15 Eureka Airport averages between \$1,700 and \$1,800 for June 2026, compared to \$500 to \$750 for flights  
 16 to San Francisco International Airport, with significantly more daily flight options and greater schedule  
 17 flexibility for the latter. Moreover, Cincinnati now offers direct flights on Breeze Airways to San  
 18 Francisco several days each week for less than \$500 round-trip, reducing travel time and expense even  
 19 further.<sup>3</sup> These differences are material and underscore the substantial, unanticipated hardship that  
 20 relocation would impose on the district and its witnesses. Breathitt agreed to waive *Lexecon* based on the  
 21 understanding that any trial would take place before this Court in Oakland. Breathitt did not contemplate  
 22 relocation to another division with a fundamentally different jury pool, limited facilities, and reduced  
 23 public access. Shifting the trial to the Eureka Division would alter the assumptions underlying the  
 24 District’s waiver, and impose additional burdens on the parties, witnesses, and the public.

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 27 <sup>3</sup> Breeze’s calendar only extends a few months into the future, which may be why Defendants are not  
 28 finding these flights.

1 Defendants' suggestion that Breathitt acquiesced to trial in McKinleyville may reflect a  
 2 misunderstanding of the record. The prospect of conducting bellwether trials in McKinleyville was first  
 3 mentioned by the Court *sua sponte* during in June, well before any case was sequenced for trial. To the  
 4 extent any earlier comments by Plaintiffs' leadership could be read as expressing general agreement were  
 5 not made with Breathitt's specific authorization. Breathitt itself never consented to trial outside Oakland.  
 6 When the Court later indicated that Breathitt's trial would be held in McKinleyville, Breathitt's trial  
 7 counsel sought to address the issue at the July CMC, including the possibility of holding trial in Kentucky,  
 8 but the Court declined to hear further discussion on venue at that time. Clearly Breathitt had objections.  
 9 After the July CMC, Breathitt did not press the issue further because the Court subsequently advised that  
 10 Breathitt's case would not be tried first, rendering the question of venue premature at that time. Breathitt's  
 11 limited *Lexecon* waiver—given in good faith and with the understanding that trial would occur before this  
 12 Court in Oakland—was not intended to encompass a proceeding in a remote division that would  
 13 significantly increase the district's burden.

14 Defendants also insinuate that Breathitt intends to dismiss its case if its request to have trial in  
 15 Oakland is not granted. Breathitt has no intention of dismissing its case and never has. In fact, Breathitt  
 16 waived *Lexecon* rather than have trial in the location most convenient to it so that the Court would retain  
 17 its ability to try in Oakland as many of the Parties' bellwether selections as possible.

18 Breathitt respectfully submits that trial should remain in Oakland, consistent with its waiver and  
 19 the fair, efficient administration of this bellwether proceeding.<sup>4</sup>

20 **b. The Oakland Courthouse Provides the Infrastructure, Accessibility, and Public  
 21 Transparency Necessary for a National MDL Trial.**

22 The Federal Courthouse in Oakland is designed and equipped to host complex, multi-party  
 23 litigation of national scope that is likely to draw national press attention. It has full-sized trial courtrooms,

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 26 <sup>4</sup> It also bears noting that Defendants selected Breathitt as a bellwether plaintiff. Only after that selection  
 27 did Defendants file a motion for summary judgment against Breathitt on statute of limitations grounds.  
 28 Defendants' have so moved only as to Breathitt—they did not move on this basis against any of the other  
 five districts, and did not raise this issue as to Breathitt in briefing regarding selection of bellwethers or  
 sequencing of trials.

extensive jury facilities, and secure and sophisticated technological infrastructure. The courthouse sits at the center of the Bay Area's transportation network—served by all major airlines, BART, AC Transit, and major interstates—making it accessible to the parties and the witnesses, and to jurors from across the division. It is also within walking distance of hotels, restaurants, and counsel offices, allowing for an efficient and orderly trial process.

By contrast, the Eureka–McKinleyville courthouse operates as a small satellite facility intended primarily for local civil and misdemeanor proceedings. It maintains limited hours, has only a small number of jury-capable courtrooms, and lacks the space and technology infrastructure necessary to accommodate the logistical demands of a high-profile MDL trial involving multiple parties, extensive evidence, expert testimony, and national media attention. The limited size of the courthouse, its distance from major airports, and the lack of public transit in the surrounding region would impose substantial burdens on witnesses and court personnel alike.

Trying the case in McKinleyville would also complicate jury management, increasing the risk of disruption from logistical constraints entirely unrelated to the merits of the case. Jurors drawn from the Eureka Division may face longer commutes and therefore greater hardship. (The Eureka Courthouse draws jurors from as far north as Smith River (a 1.75 hour drive) and as far south as Mendocino (a 3.5 hour drive). The limited transportation network and dispersed population base make it significantly more difficult for jurors to appear consistently and on time, particularly for a trial expected to last multiple weeks. These factors increase the likelihood of hardship excusals and the need for replacement jurors, undermining the stability of the panel and risking delays mid-trial.

For these reasons, Breathitt respectfully requests that the Court try its case in the San Francisco–Oakland Division of the Northern District of California.

Plaintiffs recognize that the current shutdown may necessitate postponement of the next Case Management Conference. (Dkt. No. 2303). Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel, the Co-Chairs of the School Districts Committee, and Plaintiffs' counsel for Breathitt are jointly available to address this matter at the Court's convenience by Zoom on any day except on October 30 and 31, 2025.

**Defendants' Position:**

1 Defendants oppose Plaintiffs' request to move the location of the *Breathitt* trial from  
 2 Eureka/McKinleyville to Oakland for three reasons.  
 3

4 *First*, this Court's prior determination remains correct: trying *Breathitt*—which is located in a rural  
 5 jurisdiction in Kentucky—in another rural community would provide the parties with helpful information.  
 6 See June 13, 2025 CMC Tr. at 40:24–41:5. As the Court noted in selecting *Breathitt* as a trial bellwether,  
 7 over 40% of the school district plaintiffs in the MDL are from rural communities. *Id.* at 10:9–19; see ECF  
 8 1971 at 7. Notably, as recently as the September CMC, Plaintiffs' leadership unequivocally agreed with  
 9 that determination:

10 MR. WEINKOWITZ: I think it's ***important that that case be tried in a***  
 11 ***location that's more rural***, and I think that that's why you did it, and I think  
 12 that ***that's a fine thing to do***.

13 September 19, 2025 CMC Tr. at 29:17–20 (emphasis added). Moving *Breathitt* to Oakland—an urban  
 14 center many times more populous than *Breathitt* or Eureka/McKinleyville—would not accomplish this  
 15 goal.

16 *Second*, Plaintiffs repeatedly declined to object to this venue, and in fact endorsed it, when the  
 17 Court presented this possibility at several conferences. Instead, as Plaintiffs forthrightly admit, their  
 18 belated objection comes only after the Court selected *Breathitt* as the first trial.

19 The Court first indicated that it would try *Breathitt* in Eureka over four months ago, at the June  
 20 CMC:

21 THE COURT: ... The *Breathitt* School District case, which is a rural  
 22 composition or geographic area, I anticipate that what I will do for that case  
 23 is try it up in Eureka.... It is rural....

24 MR. WEINKOWITZ: No objection to that, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: I don't think you could object.

26 June 13, 2025 CMC Tr. at 41:2–7. At the July CMC, lead counsel for *Breathitt* appeared in person but  
 27 again made no objection to trying the case in Eureka. See July 18, 2025 CMC Tr. at 6:23–24, 19:14–16.  
 28 At the August CMC—during which the Court indicated that it did not intend to select *Breathitt* as the first

1 trial due to the planned venue, *see* August 22, 2025 CMC Tr. at 55:13–16—Plaintiffs again raised no  
 2 objection to trying that case in Eureka. And in September, after the Court specifically inquired about the  
 3 suitability of Eureka for the *Breathitt* trial, Plaintiffs’ counsel affirmatively represented that “it’s important  
 4 that [*Breathitt*] be tried in a location that’s more rural.” September 19, 2025 CMC Tr. at 29:17–20.<sup>5</sup>

5 It was only *after* the Court selected *Breathitt* as the first trial that counsel reversed position and  
 6 objected to the trial venue. In short, so long as they viewed it as an impediment to trying *Breathitt* first,  
 7 Plaintiffs’ counsel repeatedly *supported* Eureka as the venue. They should not be permitted to switch  
 8 positions now.

9 *Third*, Plaintiffs’ proffered reasons for their belated objection ring hollow. *Breathitt* elected to file  
 10 this lawsuit, and lawsuits necessarily involve costs to both sides. *Breathitt*, of course, could have asserted  
 11 its *Lexecon* rights to ensure that any trial of its case would have taken place in Kentucky. Yet it knowingly  
 12 relinquished those rights, presumably in the hopes that it would secure it an earlier trial, thereby voluntarily  
 13 submitting itself to a trial in the Northern District of California. It cannot now reasonably complain about  
 14 being “significantly burdened by having to try a multi-week case in California.” Nor can it be heard to  
 15 complain that “[p]articipating in a summer trial would require these employees to work outside their  
 16 contracted days.” That would be true no matter where the trial is held, and certainly *Breathitt* would not  
 17 prefer a trial during the school year.

18 *Breathitt*’s never-before-mentioned concerns about “a fundamentally different jury pool, limited  
 19 facilities, and reduced public access” to the McKinleyville courthouse are also meritless. It again bears  
 20 note that—for so long as they believed that a trial in Eureka would prevent *Breathitt* from being the first  
 21 trial—Plaintiffs’ counsel did not voice these or any other concerns and instead repeatedly *endorsed* the  
 22 Court’s venue proposal. Plaintiffs’ newfound concerns about the “dispersed population” of the Eureka  
 23 area fall flat—the venue’s rural character is exactly why this Court determined it would be valuable to the  
 24 bellwether process. Many courts successfully navigate jury pools that may reach individuals living a few  
 25 hours away. In any event, Defendants have already begun planning for an efficient trial in Eureka and are

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26  
 27 <sup>5</sup> To the extent *Breathitt* now means to suggest that the repeated statements by Plaintiffs’ leadership in  
 28 support of a Eureka trial were unauthorized or inaccurate, *Breathitt*’s counsel had ample opportunity to  
 correct the record over the past four months. It did not.

1 confident that the large number of sophisticated and well-resourced counsel on Plaintiffs' side will be able  
 2 to do the same.

3 While Breathitt now asserts that it would be burdensome and expensive for its witnesses to travel  
 4 to Eureka, there is *no material difference* between travel to Eureka and to Oakland. Defendants' research  
 5 indicates that both sets of flights on June 30, 2026, take approximately the same time for approximately  
 6 the same cost.<sup>6</sup> But even if Plaintiffs correctly assume that there are (currently unscheduled) flights that  
 7 are several hundred dollars cheaper, that slight difference is likely to be outweighed by extended hotel  
 8 stays, and—in any case—cannot possibly be material here given the massive sums that the parties are  
 9 spending on this litigation. Moreover, Plaintiff has the ability to structure its case presentation in a way  
 10 that would be most convenient for its witnesses. In a case where Breathitt seeks to recover over \$62  
 11 million from Defendants and in which all parties (or their counsel) have incurred—and will continue to  
 12 incur—enormous litigation costs, the difference between Oakland and Eureka in either cost or travel time  
 13 for a small handful of witnesses is vanishingly small.

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15<sup>6</sup> There are flights on United that depart Lexington at 9:00 am (late enough that an overnight stay would  
 16 not be required), connect through Denver, and arrive in Arcata/Eureka in approximately 7.5 hours, for  
 17 less than \$1200 round trip. On that same day, the fastest route from either Cincinnati or Lexington to  
 18 San Francisco involves flights on American that depart Lexington at around 8:00 am, connect through  
 19 Dallas, and arrive in San Francisco in approximately 7 hours, for an almost identical price. Although  
 20 Plaintiffs suggest that there are direct flights from Cincinnati to San Francisco in June 2026, Defendants  
 21 have not been able to corroborate that claim. Instead, the fastest available route from Cincinnati to San  
 22 Francisco on June 30 would be a 6.5-hour route with a layover, again at a comparable price—but which  
 23 ultimately involves a *longer* total travel time, taking into account increased driving time from Breathitt  
 24 to Cincinnati. To be clear, Plaintiffs' statement that “only a single daily flight operates to Arcata—  
 25 Eureka Airport on one carrier (United)” refers to the number of one-stop flights to Arcata/Eureka from  
 26 Lexington or Cincinnati. The total number of daily flights to Arcata/Eureka is far greater, including four  
 27 daily direct flights from San Francisco and daily direct flights from Denver and Los Angeles. (The  
 28 round-trip prices set forth above are based on a July 2 return date.)

Finally, Defendants are concerned that Plaintiffs' recent complaints about trying the *Breathitt* case in Eureka or in California generally is a prelude to dismissing *Breathitt* and manipulating which bellwether gets tried first. Plaintiffs should affirm their intention to try the *Breathitt* case. If Plaintiffs instead dismiss *Breathitt* before trial, the Court should not reward gamesmanship and instead should replace *Breathitt* with a defense pick.

## **2. Defendants' Anticipated Request for Additional Time to File MSJ Replies**

**Defendants' Position:** Plaintiffs have informed Defendants that some or all of the 7 new SD witnesses listed on their preliminary witness lists (or other witnesses) may submit declarations in support of Plaintiffs' oppositions to Defendants' MSJs in the SD bellwether cases, due November 7. As alluded to in Section II.D. above, depending on the number of declarations ultimately submitted from SD witnesses and the content of those declarations, as well as the timing of custodial file productions for those witnesses, Defendants may need, and expressly reserve the right to request, additional time to prepare their replies in support of their MSJs, currently due December 5, to allow time for depositions of those witnesses; and expressly reserve the right to challenge Plaintiffs' use of those declarations to the extent they present new facts after the close of fact and expert discovery and the filing of MSJs.

**Plaintiffs' Position:** Plaintiffs intend to oppose as improper and unnecessary any request for a delay from Defendants, given that these additional depositions were expressly contemplated by the Parties' stipulation and the Court's prior orders.

## **3. Brief Continuance of SD Jury Instructions Exchange and Submission Deadlines**

The Parties have agreed, subject to Court approval, to a 1-week continuance of the October 20 deadline to exchange jury instructions for the SD cases, and a 1-week continuance of the December 8 deadline to submit jury instructions for the SD cases. The new deadlines would be October 27 (exchange) and December 15 (submit). The Parties respectfully request that the Court so-order this brief continuance at the October 24 CMC. A Stipulation and [Proposed] Order is attached hereto as **Ex. 1**.

## **B. State AG's Trial Sequencing**

The State AGs renew their request for the Court to set their trial after the first school district bellwether trial. See ECF No. 2191, at 9-10. Meta renews its objection to that request. See ECF No. 2191, at 10-11. The Parties are prepared to discuss this issue with the Court.

## C. Update on Sullivan v. Meta Platforms, Inc., et al (25-cv-05081-YGR)

At the September 19, 2025 hearing, the Court requested an update regarding the outstanding motion to dismiss in *Case No. 25-05081*. See Sept. 19, 2025 Hr'g Tr. at 44. Counsel for Defendants Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority and Robert Millison, and counsel for Sullivan have conferred and agreed to extend Plaintiff's deadline to respond to the motion to dismiss. Counsel for Sullivan will have Fourteen (14) days from the date the stipulation is entered, but not later than October 31, 2025 to respond. A stipulation memorializing this agreement is being filed on the docket on October 17, 2025, and is attached hereto as **Ex. 8** for the Court's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

DATED: October 17, 2025

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I, Lexi J. Hazam, hereby attest, pursuant to N.D. Cal. Civil L.R. 5-1, that the concurrence to the filing of this document has been obtained from each signatory hereto.

Dated: October 17, 2025

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